Other Backward Classes, Women, Physically Handicapped, Ex-servicemen, Minority community, etc., the margin money given is at the rate of 30 per cent of the project cost up to Rs. 10 lakh while for projects costing above Rs. 10 lakh and up to Rs. 25 lakh, the rate of margin money assistance is 30 per cent of Rs. 10 lakh plus 10 per cent of the balance cost of the project.

39809 projects have been set up in the agro and food processing sector upto 31.03.2004 and Rs. 155.32 crore of margin money assistance has been provided to these projects under the REGP 5.41 lakh additional employment opportunities have been generated in these projects upto 31.03.2004.

Under the REGP, the KVIC provides training on entrepreneurship development through a number of accredited training centres. Further, KVIC itself runs 15 Multidisciplinary Training Centres while 6 training centres are operated by the State Khadi and Village Industry Boards and 20 by other implementing agencies. These training centres provide skill development training through various technical courses (both theoretical and practical) for the benefit of artisans/entrepreneurs engaged in khadi and village industries activities.

(c) Does not arise.

Technical viability of nuclear fusion

76. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is thinking of joining the highly ambitious project promoted by a select band of advanced countries to build a plant to demonstrate technical viability of nuclear fusion as a source of energy;

(b) if so, the details of the project and the countries that are involved in the project; and

(c) the financial commitment required to become a member of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) India has expressed its interest to join the development of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER).

(b) ITER is an ambitious collaborative international project to develop fusion enegy technology further with European Union, USA, Japan and Russia as partners. China and South Korea have also joined the project recently.

(c) It is premature at this stage to decide the financial implications of India joining the project.

Mineral production in the country

77. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently approved Rs. 4000 crores of FDI in the mining sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is not a fact that due to obsolete technology by Indian minerals the country has been deficient in high value minerals; and

(d) the total mineral production in the country during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In consultation with the Ministry of Mines, the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), has so far aproved 73 proposals of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the mining sector, envisaging an investment of about Rs. 4,044 crores:

(c) India has similar geological setting and metallogenetic history of mineral rich Australia, South Africa and Antarctica. However, due to lack of advanced state-of-the-art technology and low investment for detailed exploration, deep-seated high value minerals have not yet been fully discovered.

(d) The value of total mineral production of the country (excluding atomic minerals) during the last three years is as follows:—

Year	2001-2002	2002-2003 (Provisional)	2003-2004 (Provisional)
Value *(in Rs. crores)*	60,832	63,540	66,303